

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claim 1 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing an image display apparatus, said method comprising the steps of:

 ~~having an~~ providing a depressurized airtight container including,

 wherein said airtight container comprises a rear plate having a plurality of electron-emitting devices, ~~and a face plate disposed in opposition to~~ opposing the rear plate and having a phosphor and an electroconductive film, ~~said method comprising the steps of:~~ and a plurality of plate-shaped spacers between the rear plate and the face plate; and

 ~~disposing the rear plate having the plurality of electron-emitting devices and the face plate having the phosphor and the electroconductive film such that the rear plate and the face plate are opposite to each other and arranging a plurality of plate-shaped spacers between the rear plate and the face plate to assemble the airtight container;~~

 ~~slanting the airtight container such that a longitudinal direction of the plate-shaped spacers is not perpendicular to a gravitational direction; and~~

 applying an electric field between the rear plate and the face plate while the depressurized airtight container is slanted so that a longitudinal direction of the plate-shaped spacers is not perpendicular to a gravitational direction.

2. (Previously Presented) A method of manufacturing an image display apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the electric field is lower than an electric field applied between the rear plate and the face plate when driving the image display apparatus.

3. (Previously Presented) A method of manufacturing an image display apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the electric field is $1/10$ to $1/2$ of an electric field applied between the rear plate and the face plate when driving the image display apparatus.